



The President's Daily Brief

January 9, 1974

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

January 9, 1974

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

USSR [redacted] Syria 25X1
[redacted] (Page 1)

[redacted] France 25X1
Saudi Arabia [redacted]
[redacted] (Page 3)

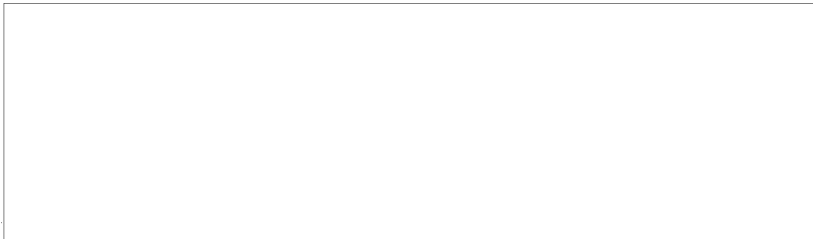
In an effort to curb demands for political reform, South Korean President Pak has decreed that persons agitating for constitutional or other political changes will be subject to courts-martial and imprisonment. (Page 4)

Notes on the concern of both government and communist officials in Laos over possible coups and Jamaican Government negotiations with its foreign-owned bauxite industry appear on Page 5.

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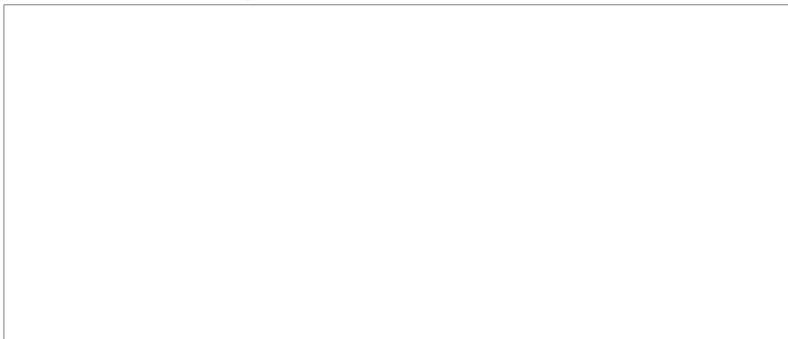
SYRIA-USSR



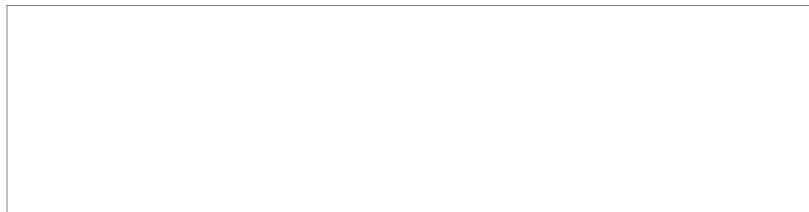
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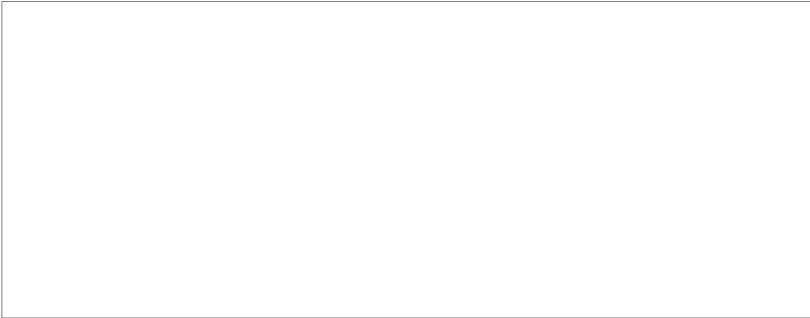


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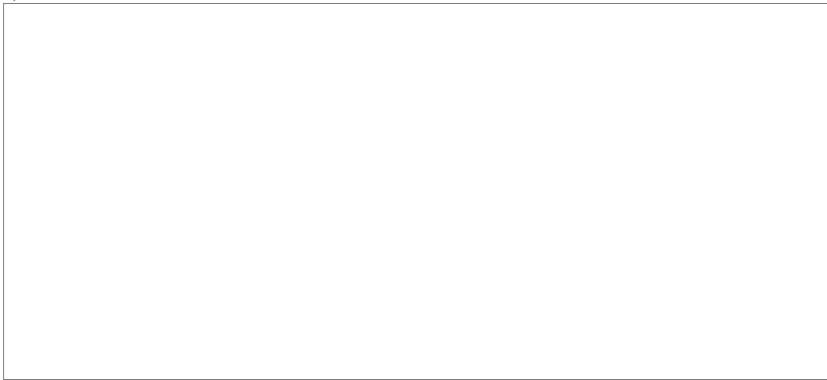


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SAUDI ARABIA - FRANCE



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SOUTH KOREA

President Pak has decreed that in the future, persons agitating for constitutional changes and other political reforms will be subject to courts-martial and imprisonment. His action--the first direct move to curb calls for basic political reforms which in effect would undermine the authoritarian nature of his regime--was prompted by an extensively circulated petition for reform, as well as by critical statements of senior politicians. The decree also reflects Pak's frustration over his failure to mollify critics through conciliatory gestures and appeals for popular support.

Pak is gambling that the threat of government repression will be enough to silence his critics. Similar emergency measures in 1971 and the martial law decree in 1972 effectively halted open opposition. After more than two years of authoritarian rule, however, Pak's opponents are better organized and more determined to press their case. Most politicians will probably find it prudent to keep quiet, but militant Christians and intellectuals may view the action as a challenge which cannot go unanswered. Thus there is a potential here for a serious confrontation.

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NOTES

Laos: Both the government and the Pathet Lao have shown some nervousness recently that rightists may be planning a coup. Although there is no firm evidence of serious plotting, the rightists are again voicing their concern that Prime Minister Souvanna is prepared to sell them out if necessary to gain Lao Communist agreement on a new government.

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Jamaica: The Jamaican Government is preparing to negotiate with the foreign-owned bauxite industry, and Prime Minister Manley has reiterated that nationalization is not being considered now. He has warned, however, that his attitude could change. The government had planned to begin discussions for increased benefits from the bauxite companies in mid-1974, but implications of the energy crisis apparently prompted Manley to decide on discussions next month.

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